

MAYOR'S - COLUMN

BLOOMINGTON'S ROAD MAP TO SUCCESS

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN PROVIDES A CLEAR DIRECTION FOR THE FUTURE

By Mayor Gene Winstead

WHEN EMBARKING on a road trip, a road map serves as an important directional tool for an efficient journey – in terms of cost, time and a quality experience. The same is true for a city's trip into the future. In this case, the road map is Bloomington's *Comprehensive Plan*, which has been used for nearly 50 years with great success.

The Plan is a statement of Bloomington's goals and objectives with regard to land use, housing, transportation, parks, environmental resources, airport impact, utilities, and other related elements. It outlines where Bloomington stands today as a city and where it desires to be in the future, along with recommendations on how to reach desired objectives. Comprehensive planning begins with creating a community vision and establishing guiding goals and strategies and ends with implementation.

Since 1967, the *Comprehensive Plan* has played a significant part in the success Bloomington has enjoyed to date. Examples can be seen throughout the city:

- A balance of commercial and residential property values, results in one of the lowest property tax rates for populations more than 20,000 in Hennepin County.



Household, population and employment forecasts

Year	Households	Population	Employment
2010	37,141	86,787	108,118
2020	39,371	90,542	124,700
2030	40,536	92,477	135,214

The *Comprehensive Plan* uses statistical forecasts as guides.

- One-third of the city is set aside for parks and open spaces, including several parks of significance to the metro area.
- Natural drainage systems and wetlands are preserved in the Nine Mile Creek and Minnesota River watersheds.
- A mix of owner-occupied and rental housing includes a wide variety of housing options for growing families and older adults.
- An efficient and cost-effective street system provides easy access to regional highways.

To continue to grow and succeed on our journey into the future, we must occasionally adjust the road map. Currently, the City is in the process of

updating its *Comprehensive Plan*, which was last revised in 2000. Updating the Plan is required by Minnesota state law. Updates must be approved by the Metropolitan Council and be consistent with adopted regional plans.

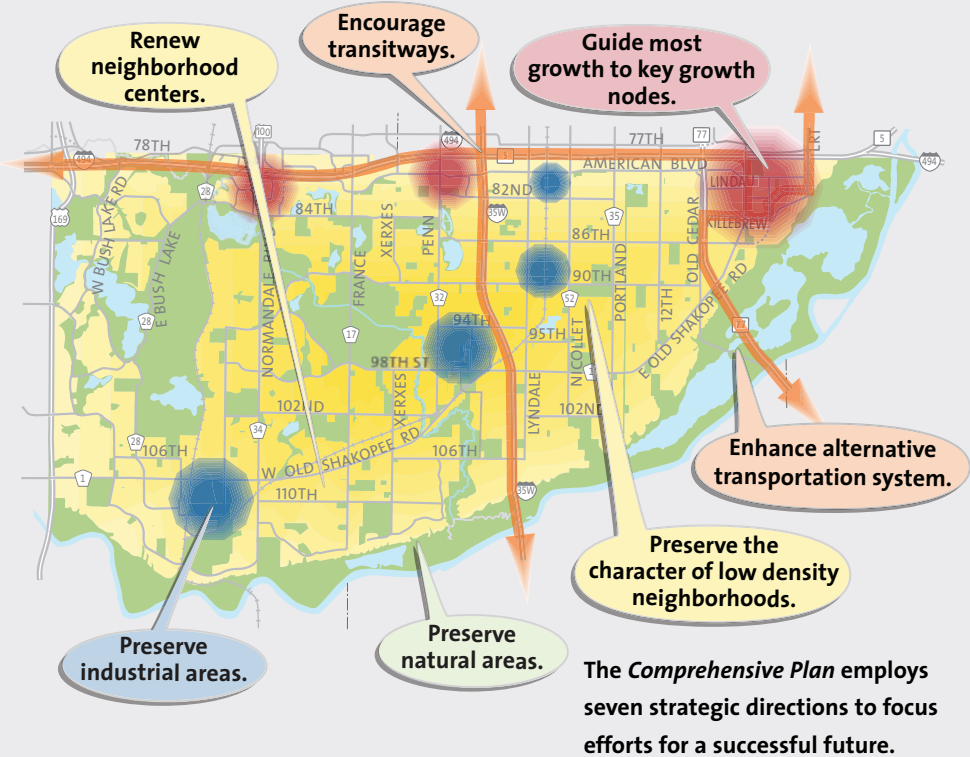
The plan update is scheduled for completion by the end of the year. You may view the plan online at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords: Comprehensive plan.

For more information, e-mail Senior Planner Glen Markegard at gmarkegard@ci.bloomington.mn.us or call 952-563-8923.



MAPPING THE ROUTE

Among the most difficult decisions the City Council faces are those where a change in land use is proposed. The decision involves balancing long-term community direction, the landowner's property rights and the desires of the community. While the easy road is often the status quo, the Council is aware that communities must change to move ahead. The *Comprehensive Plan* and its *Land Use Guide Map* are tools to positively affect change.



The *Comprehensive Plan* employs seven strategic directions to focus efforts for a successful future.

SEVENTEEN YEAR VETERAN OF FORCE PROMOTED

JEFFREY POTTS COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE IN HIS NEW ROLE AS CHIEF OF POLICE

THE BLOOMINGTON Police Department (BPD) has a new leader in its ranks. Jeffrey Potts was appointed Bloomington Chief of Police in November. Potts, a former commander of police patrol operations for Bloomington, has been with the City since 1991. Potts has served as police officer, sergeant and commander. He holds a master's degree in police administration from the University of St. Thomas and is also a graduate of the FBI National Academy in

Virginia. Potts will oversee a staff of 148 employees and an annual operating budget of approximately \$18 million.

"I am honored to be selected as the next Chief of Police," Potts said. "I have always been extremely proud to be a part of the BPD and I will work hard to ensure that the department continues to deliver excellent police service to the citizens of Bloomington."

Potts succeeds former Chief John Laux who retired in October.



Chief of Police Jeffrey Potts.

BRIEFING

Volume 16, Number 6

The *Briefing*, published bimonthly by the City of Bloomington, is mailed to our residents and businesses. Direct comments and requests for Braille, larger print or computer disk to Communications Administrator Janine Hill, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Rd., Bloomington MN 55431-3027; PH 952-563-8819; TTY 952-563-8740; FAX 952-563-8715; E-MAIL jhill@ci.bloomington.mn.us.

Web site: www.ci.bloomington.mn.us

BLOOMINGTON CITY COUNCIL



Mayor
Gene Winstead
952-888-1258(h)
952-563-8782(w)
gwinstead@ci.bloomington.mn.us

Councilmember At Large
Amy Grady
952-884-6502 (h)
agrady@ci.bloomington.mn.us



Councilmember At Large
Karen Nordstrom
952-831-5221 (h)
knordstrom@ci.bloomington.mn.us

Councilmember District I
Steve Peterson
952-884-3262(h)
speterson@ci.bloomington.mn.us



Councilmember District II
Rod Axtell
952-832-5377(h)
raxtell@ci.bloomington.mn.us

Councilmember District III
Steve Elkins
612-578-2103(c)
selkins@ci.bloomington.mn.us



Councilmember District IV
Vern Wilcox
952-854-1425(h)
vwilcox@ci.bloomington.mn.us

Elected officials presented for informational purposes.

COUNCILMEMBERS
council@ci.bloomington.mn.us

CITY MANAGER

Mark Bernhardsen 952-563-8780
citymanager@ci.bloomington.mn.us

DIRECTORS

Larry Lee, <i>Community Development</i>	952-563-8947
llee@ci.bloomington.mn.us	
Diann Kirby, <i>Community Services</i>	952-563-8717
communityservices@ci.bloomington.mn.us	
Lori Economy-Scholler, <i>Finance</i>	952-563-8791
finance@ci.bloomington.mn.us	
Ulie Seal, <i>Fire</i>	952-881-4062
fire@ci.bloomington.mn.us	
Kent Michaelson, <i>Human Resources</i>	952-563-4898
kmichaelson@ci.bloomington.mn.us	
David Ornstein, <i>Legal</i>	952-563-8753
legal@ci.bloomington.mn.us	
Jeffrey Potts, <i>Police</i>	952-563-8701
police@ci.bloomington.mn.us	
Karl Keel, <i>Public Works</i>	952-563-8731
publicworks@ci.bloomington.mn.us	

The City of Bloomington complies with all applicable provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its services, programs, or activities. Upon request, accommodation will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in all City of Bloomington services, programs, and activities. The City has designated coordinators to facilitate compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), and to coordinate compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as mandated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations. For more information, contact the Human Services Division, City of Bloomington, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington, MN 55431-3027; (952)563-8733 (Voice); 952-563-8740 (TTY).

Upon request, this information can be available in Braille, large print, audio tape and/or electronic format.